



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

RL:0341

SB 419 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND LITTER CONTROL

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Ecology, Environment and Recreation
Public Hearing, 28 February 1979

By
Doak C. Cox
Margaret Kimmerer
Douglas Robbins
Environmental Center

SB 419 would amend HRS 339-7 relating to beverage containers so as to delete from it a prohibition against the sale of beverages in plastic containers. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

SB 419 is identical to one introduced in the House, HB 1565. Another, HB 417, would amend the provision of HRS 339-7 by excluding from the prohibition, beverages in containers of 32 oz. size or larger. In comparing the two bills, the Environmental Center (in RL:0330) concluded that the total deletion of the prohibition against plastic containers was less desirable than the modification of the prohibition in HB 417. Beverage containers are not now a significant contributor to litter. In the case of the large sizes this is because they are used mainly in the household and not where they would be discarded promiscuously. In the case of the small sizes, however, it is because their use for the beverages associated with littering problems is not at present practicable. The practicability could change in the future and if it did they might contribute significantly to litter. There is little to lose and much, potentially to gain in retaining the prohibition against the use of the small size beverage containers.

We suggest revision of SB 419 along the lines of HB 417.